



MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TASK FORCE

MEETING NOTES

AUGUST 12, 2003
4:00 P.M.
ROOM 113

Task Force Members Present	Kit Boesch, Nye Bond, Susan Dunn, Duane Eitel, Margaret Hall, Elaine Hammer, Rick Krueger, Greg MacLean, Marian Malone, Bill McCoy, Eric Miller, Patte Newman, Oscar Pohirieth, Gordon Scholz. (Tad McDowell, Terry Werner absent)
Resource Panel Members Present	Susan Epps, Terry Genrich, Ann Harrell, Randy Hoskins, Brian Mathers, Randy Peters, Doug Pillard, Ken Smith, Larry Worth, Jerry Wray
Others Present	Bob Boyce, Susan Hale, Marvin Krout, Alvin, Lugn, Pam Mikkleson, Duncan Ross, Conan Schafer, Alan Wickman, Milena Zavoli, Kent Morgan, Michele Abendroth

Agenda Topics

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and welcomed those present.

2. Follow Up Questions/Comments

There were no follow-up questions/comments.

3. Public Comment Period (10 Min. Maximum)

There were no public comments.

4. Task Force and Consultant Introductions

Bill Weber and Joe Kern of SRF Consulting introduced themselves. The members of the Task Force introduced themselves as well.

5. Study Schedule and Work Program

Mr. Weber noted that one of the primary functions of the trip to Lincoln is to interview people in the community about transportation issues in Lincoln.

Mr. Kern stated that this is a 9-10 month project. They are here to begin the process of gathering some of the information about the local community and get ideas on how to improve local transportation issues. They will do some community outreach such as public surveys and interviews with local citizens. They will review all of the information gathered, digest it, and hopefully reach concurrence on a way to improve transportation in Lincoln. They want the help of the Task Force to help determine the vision for transportation solutions.

6. Committee Discussion RE: Multi-Modal Transportation Issues and Vision for Lincoln

Mr. Weber began an exercise with the Task Force and asked them to write down their concerns with transportation in Lincoln, and secondly, their thoughts on what is a desirable future or opportunities for the transit system in Lincoln.

Concerns noted by the Task Force members were as follows:

- ▶ Bus service
- ▶ Traffic lights - very short lights and wide streets to cross - not enough time to cross, such as 27th and Highway 2
- ▶ Development in new neighborhoods - accessibility to homes to pick up special education students, i.e. narrow streets, entrance and exit points into a neighborhood
- ▶ General condition of sidewalks
- ▶ Lack of coordination among van providers (routes do not go where they need them to go)
- ▶ Inadequate service from the fixed route
- ▶ Sidewalk connectivity problems
- ▶ Operating hours of bus service
- ▶ Sidewalk crossings do not indicate how much time is remaining in order to cross the street
- ▶ Right turn on red in terms of pedestrian safety
- ▶ Lack of respect for pedestrians
- ▶ Bicycle safety in downtown
- ▶ Congestion during peak travel hours
- ▶ Routes are complicated and difficult to understand for some people
- ▶ Bus drivers are not calling out street names
- ▶ Exact change to get on the bus
- ▶ No way to take your bike on the bus
- ▶ Lack of trail connections (i.e. trails with street routes)
- ▶ Trails appear to be recreational only, and not as a form of commuting
- ▶ Trails need to be open and not go through bushes

- ▶ Bus routes do not have a grid system
- ▶ Curbs are not shoveled in the winter
- ▶ No funding system in place for trails
- ▶ Under-utilization of federal dollars
- ▶ Downtown shuttle is pretty inadequate
- ▶ Downtown shuttle needs to go to Haymarket and run on Saturday
- ▶ More bus routes near public schools
- ▶ Ensure that bus service fits school schedule
- ▶ Adequate means to ensure bus ridership
- ▶ Too much parking downtown (direct correlation between parking availability/cost of parking and bus ridership)
- ▶ Perception that if you use public transit, you are a second class citizen
- ▶ Pedestrian safety, i.e. crosswalks, speeds of traffic
- ▶ Inadequate downtown bike routes
- ▶ Bus use language problems
- ▶ Secure places to leave your bike
- ▶ No easy inter-modal transfers
- ▶ No bus routes to airport
- ▶ No transportation from the City to the County
- ▶ Transit between Lincoln and Omaha
- ▶ Transit center on 11th and O in poor condition
- ▶ Downtown bus centers need to be cleaned
- ▶ Need more bus shelters and benches

Concluding statements regarding concerns:

- The majority of the comments have dealt with 6.9% of the population.
- Declining transit use
- Is the need for public transit growing?
- Is public adequately promoting alternative transportation?
- Safety
- Education and attitude
- Availability and convenience of bus service

Opportunities/Ideal Future noted by Task Force Members

- ◆ Reliability in terms of location served and timing
- ◆ Multi-function kiosk, system communication
- ◆ Reliable service of taxis
- ◆ Taxi on demand service
- ◆ Inter-modal transportation center downtown
- ◆ Employers/businesses support other forms of transportation

- ◆ Pedestrian districts
- ◆ Environment friendly modes of transportation
- ◆ In terms of design, businesses close to bus stops
- ◆ Service to shopping centers and to Lancaster County Events Center
- ◆ 4 way intersections in residential neighborhoods
- ◆ More aggressive approach to transit oriented development
- ◆ Need handi-vans for all
- ◆ Electric or magnetic card system for bus payment
- ◆ Shuttle bus that links from Haymarket to businesses and parking garages
- ◆ Trails need to connect
- ◆ Curb cuts in every sidewalk in the city
- ◆ Trolleys that are unmanned and frequent
- ◆ More local street connections to arterials
- ◆ Efficient and well-designed transit system that can be used for economic development
- ◆ Bus only lanes
- ◆ More collaborative efforts between agencies on resource sharing
- ◆ Examine creative approaches to travel between the County and City
- ◆ Lack of weekend bus service

Statements of Conclusion regarding Ideal Future:

- Expanding options available to people
- More respect for people who use alternative means of transportation
- Public transit issues
- Recognition that demographically we need to design for the future, i.e. elderly

7. Other Business

Mr. Morgan suggested that if the Task Force members have other ideas to communicate them to him.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Morgan adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

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